



**PEACE**  
NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**September 2022**



## *MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL*

United we stand, divided we fall...John Dickinson

During our search for a new pastor here at Peace Lutheran Church, this old saying has never had more meaning.

Your church council has begun the all-important task of finding and selecting a new spiritual leader to serve Peace Lutheran Church. It's a difficult and time-consuming task and not one to be hurried or taken lightly.

Qualified candidates for ordained church leadership are likely to be few and far between. It's a sad fact that today fewer men and women than ever are entering the seminary. And demand for pastors is high across the country. Your council will employ a visioning process to help them understand which areas of ministry need special emphasis as we stretch and strengthen our mission of doing God's work. Candidates will undergo thoughtful

scrutiny by our call committee members in selecting the kind of leader who will help bring us together in the years to come and to help ensure a bright future for Peace Lutheran Church.

If you are interested in serving on the call committee, please contact any council member. We aim to select individuals who will create a diverse group representing all our members and we will continue to update you on the visioning process as we learn more.

It will take time. It will take patience and careful consideration of candidates. But most importantly, it will take your support of the council and your prayers for their success. After all, united we stand, divided we fall.



**VIRGIL BENNETT,**  
COUNCIL MEMBER

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
3590 Lincoln Avenue  
St. Joseph, MI 49085  
Phone: 269-556-7000  
Church Office Email:  
PeaceLutheranStJoe@sbcglobal.net  
Church Website:  
Peacelutheranstjoe.org

**Church Office Hours:**  
Monday through Thursday  
9 a.m.—12 p.m.

**Audio/Video Requests:**  
For Audio CD call:  
Josh Lochner 429-4415  
For Video DVD call:  
The Church Office 556-7000

**Weekly Worship & Praise Opportunities:**  
*Sunday*  
**10:15 a.m. Worship**  
*also streamed on Facebook Live or YouTube Live*  
*Permission to podcast/stream the music in our services obtained from One License with license #A-722704.*

**Vice Pastor Zornow will be preaching at Peace on 9/4/2022 and distributing Holy Communion.**





**Tuesday, August 16, 2022**

**Members present:** Barb Berry, Ken Berry, Virgil Bennett, Teresa Hogan, Herb Kroening, Bob Phillips, Bryan Sorensen, Ed Zajac

**Also Present:** Pastor Hartten, Dominic So

**Call to Order:** Ed Zajac called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

**Open Devotion/Prayer** **Virgil**

Pastor Hartten’s devotion was based on Luke 2:25-26. “Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.” In other words, keep focusing on God and his promises, don’t lose hope, but look to Jesus. Pastor prayed.

**Approval of August 2022 Agenda**

Barb made a motion to approve the August agenda, Herb seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Approval of July 2022 minutes** made via Email

**Treasurer’s report** **Brenda Engel (acct. mgr)**

**Cash & Fund Activity Summary 6/30/22** **6731/22**

Honor CU Checking	\$67,874.76	\$63,082.59
Honor CU Savings	\$49,490.89	\$56,011.29
Honor CU Scrip Acct	\$24,083.29	\$23,247.81
Major Repairs & Maint.	\$25,265.89	\$25,521.29
Youth Group Fund	\$11,282.00	\$11,282.00
A/V Fund	\$9,223.00	\$9,223.00
Wish List Fund	\$1,165.00	\$1,165.00
Church Mortgage	\$36,614.17	\$34,392.10

**Council Guests:** Dominic So

**Old Business**

**COVID-19 update and discussion** **All**

Covid numbers are at 25.0% in Berrien County. Therefore, the church will continue distribution of

Holy Communion with no changes. The general trend with Covid is now relaxed.

**Update on Monday Night Services**

We will continue Monday Nigh Services, but will look into making some changes. The motion was made to continue the service by Teresa and seconded by Virgil. The motion carried.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Worship** **Dominic**

Pastor Zornow offered to do the service on the first Sunday of every month until we hire another pastor. He will give communion on the first Sunday of each month and will also bless the bread and wine for the third Sunday of the month given by laypeople. The motion was made by Barb to accept Pastor Zornow’s offer. It was seconded by Bryan and the motion carried.

**Fellowship** **Teresa**

The fellowship committee organized the potluck for Pastor Hartten’s last service on Sunday, August 21. Church will furnish the chicken and everyone will bring a dish to pass

**Building & Grounds** **Ken/Virgil**

The council looked into purchasing an electric sign in front of the church. It was found that the cost would be about \$30,000. Therefore, we tabled the discussion until a future date.

**Outreach Committee** **Bob**

Berrien County Youth Fair - Our booth has been going well. We had given out five bibles on Monday and Tuesday. People stopped to talk and bags were handed out. Bingo - Approximately 30 people attended on August 17. Starting on September 7, the bingo will be from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Movie Night - Princess Bride will be the next movie to be presented on August 27. Bible Study - Wanda Loveless will be starting a new bible study reviewing the Old Testament on Wednesday, September 7, at 7:30 p.m. after bingo. Piano for Sanctuary - Money has been approved

for the piano and Maria Tallman will be choosing the piano.

**Executive Committee**

**Ed**

No executive meeting in July.

**Pastor's Report**

**Pastor Hartten**

The summary of the pastor's activities are as follows: Dean's responsibilities, Home Visits, Lutheran Text Study, Office Visit, NALC Convocation, Special Council Meeting, Thursday Prayer Group, Vacation, Worship Committee, Sunday Worship, Monday Night Worship, Provisional Living Facility Worship

**New Business**

**Upton Middle School Emergency Evacuation Plan**

Upton has asked about using our building as a safe shelter during a situation for emergency evacuation. Bryan made a motion to allow the use of our church. Teresa seconded the motion and all approved. School will keep our key and passcode in a locked safe on school premises.

**Letter to Congregation**

The council will be sending out an informational letter to the congregation regarding the progress of the church without a pastor.

**Retirement for Part-time Employees**

Retirement Plan Consultants need to know if we want to continue to exclude part-time employees from our existing plan. A motion was made by Bryan to exclude part-time employees, Barb seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**One Call Now**

The company has been contacted to begin this new program. They are sending a contract for our signature. Barb Berry is the contact person at the church.

**Flags**

Both the American flag and the church flag are worn and ragged. Teresa made a motion to replace the flags and Bryan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**September Greeters**

**Ken Berry**

- 9/4 Bob & Herb with fellowship
- 9/11 Barb and Ken with fellowship
- 9/18 Ken and Virgil
- 9/25 Teresa and Ed with fellowship

**Motion to Adjourn.** Barb made a motion to adjourn.

**Closing prayer**

Pastor prayed.

The grounds committee put together a plan for the upcoming Fall. We have scheduled monthly work days from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. to maintain the beauty of our church grounds. They are as follows:

- Sept. 10th
- Oct. 8th
- Nov. 12th

There will be some changes to the front of the church. The plan is to remove some of the existing bushes and to plant flowering bushes in their place. We will develop a plan to identify what variety of bushes we will plant and how to purchase them. We will keep you updated on our progress.

Thank you for your continuous support,

Grounds Committee,  
Ken Berry  
Beverly So

Come have fellowship after worship service on September 4th to meet our new Vice Pastor George Zornow.



**To the Peace Lutheran Church Congregation -**

As many of you have heard, I have accepted a full time position as the library specialist at my son's elementary school, beginning August 30th. This is a dream job for me, and I'm looking forward to starting this next chapter in my career. However, I would be remiss not to acknowledge this church family and how grateful I've been to work for you for the past two years. You welcomed me with open arms as I learned the ropes here and I have loved getting to know each of you that have taken the time to visit with me in the office. I will miss it here so much. Thank you for giving me a shot, and I hope to see you around our community in the future.

Very Sincerely,  
Brandi Johnson



**Breaking Bread Dinner Club to  
Resume September 11th**

The dinner club is having their first get together on Sunday night, September 11th at the home of Bev & Dominic So. Appetizers will start at 5pm, dinner will be at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share. Meat, drinks, and appetizers will be provided by the So's. We will decide that night when and where we will meet for the next several months. Everyone in the congregation is invited. A sign-up sheet is on the podium in the narthex.



**it's ALMOST time!**



**Super Books are coming!  
Keep your eyes open for more  
information in the next few  
weeks!**

# Mark your Calendars for an upcoming Bible Class!

## Introducing Bible Briefs

Do you want to know more of what the Bible says but run into one or more of the following obstacles?

- ◆ Reading is hard, tiring, or you just don't have the time, energy, or eyesight to do it
- ◆ Trouble fitting the pieces together to understand how the stories relate to each other
- ◆ Getting stuck in long sections of genealogies or archaic laws that seem irrelevant
- ◆ Frustrated by lots of names you don't know how to pronounce
- ◆ People using "the Bible says" to point out when you're doing/ thinking something wrong.

Then Bible Briefs is for you. Join us for an 11 session course that will give you a bird's eye view of scripture by telling through the whole story of the Old Testament chronologically. Come and hear the classic stories referenced in just about every sermon or Bible study, as well as some hidden gems you may have never heard before. You don't need any previous Bible knowledge or church experience to understand and enjoy Bible Briefs. **Starting Sept 7 @ 7:30 PM.**

*(Children welcome but many Bible stories would be rated PG-13)*



# Save the Date!



**Blood Drive**  
**Peace Lutheran Church**  
3590 Lincoln Avenue, St. Joseph

**Thursday, September 1, 2022**  
**11:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.**

For an appointment visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter sponsor code: PEACELUTHERAN, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



Come to give Sept. 1-18 and we'll say thanks with a limited-edition Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last! Good things happen when you give. In fact, every time you give, you may help save more than one life. Spread the word!



1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App  
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# Flood Bucket Update

Thank you to everyone for contributing to the flood buckets. They were loaded last Wednesday night and delivered to the NALC warehouse in Owosso Thursday morning. 50 buckets were delivered with the average cost of \$30 each.



**Men's Bible Study resumes**  
**September 8th at 7:45 am. They**  
**will continue on with Matthew**  
**Chapter 8.**



# SEPTEMBER

## Helpers

### THIS MONTH'S READINGS



#### Welcome Center

#### Lector

- |      |                     |               |
|------|---------------------|---------------|
| 9/4  | Ginger Kunst        | Bev So        |
| 9/11 | Teresa Hogan        | Teresa Hogan  |
| 9/18 | Margaret Schmieding | Barb Morgan   |
| 9/25 | Norma Carpenter     | Herb Kroening |

#### Altar Guild

#### Communion

- |      |                     |
|------|---------------------|
| 9/4  | Ginger Kunst        |
| 9/11 | Maria Tallman       |
| 9/18 | Margaret Schmieding |
| 9/25 | Mark Carpenter      |

#### Greeters

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 9/4  | Bob Phillips & Herb Kroening (with fellowship) |
| 9/11 | Barb & Ken Berry (with Fellowship)             |
| 9/18 | Ken Berry & Virgil Bennett                     |
| 9/25 | Teresa Hogan & Ed Zajac (with Fellowship)      |

#### Sunday, Sep 4 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1  
Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-35

#### Sunday, Sep 11 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11-24, Psalm 119:169-176  
1 Timothy 1:5-17, Luke 15:1-10

#### Sunday, Sep 18 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113  
1 Timothy 2:1-15, Luke 16:1-15

#### Sunday, Sep 25 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 6:1-7, Psalm 146  
1 Timothy 3:1-13, Luke 16:19-31



Visit our website!



God tells us, in His word, not to worry about tomorrow or live and regret the past; but to enjoy today. **THAT IS WHY IT IS CALLED....THE PRESENT!!!!**

So enjoy God's free GIFT... **TODAY!!!!** (we are also commanded to uplift and encourage one another).

-Submitted by Barb Morgan



**Come join us for movie night  
September 17th at 7pm**

**We will be watching Hoodwinked!**

Little Red Riding Hood as you've never heard it before. Come find out what the wolf and woodsman were really doing in the woods. What does Grandma do all day? And who is the goodie bandit who's stealing all the goodies?

The movie is free; concessions available to purchase. Kids are welcome & encouraged to come!



# Thank you for all your help with Lutheran World Relief School Kits!!!

We're already shopping for the best deals in stores and online, but if shopping isn't your thing, we've got you covered. Donations can be made through cash or check, just place in a pew envelope, note "LWR SCHOOL KITS" on your check and envelope. You may drop donations in the offering plate or at the table display in the narthex.

With great sales, kits can cost less than \$6.00 each. Detailed shopping lists and a School Kit sample are on display in the narthex. (Collecting two items each week)

## EACH SCHOOL KIT CONTAINS: (Bags are provided.)

- |              |   |                     |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| 4            | NOTEBOOKS – Spiral-bound 70-sheets, wide or college-ruled | (Week 1)            |
| 1            | 12 Inch Ruler - with inches & centimeters                 | (Week 1)            |
| 5            | Ballpoint Pens - black or blue (please no gel ink)        | (Week 2)            |
| 5            | #2 Unsharpened Pencils with Erasers                       | (Week 2)            |
| 1            | Blunt-Nose Safety Scissors                                | (Week 3)            |
| 1            | Pencil Sharpener  | (Week 3)            |
| 1            | Eraser 2 ½" Pinks   | (Week 4)            |
| <del>1</del> | <del>Box of 24 Crayons</del>                              | <del>(Week 4)</del> |



*Your help allows children in need to do the most normal thing in the middle of loss and crisis – go to school. Join us as we send love and prayers in a school bag.*



For more information, contact Sandy Schuermann at 630-347-3515 or call the office at 269-556-7000. To learn more about Lutheran World Relief kits and programs, go to [lwr.org](http://lwr.org)

## Church Challenges

Churches everywhere (regardless of denomination) are facing a common set of problems, not the least of which is dwindling attendance.

For a variety of reasons, we at Peace Lutheran Church have unfortunately witnessed fewer of the faithful in attendance nowadays. At one time, our worship services were filled nearly to capacity every Sunday. Now we typically see 40-45 in attendance.

The first question that comes to mind is why? The second is what can we do about it? Both are very, very good questions. But neither is easy to answer.

As a council member, I have only theories as to why and what. I read a great deal and it seems to me that Church leaders and theologians the world over are as confused as I am. I attended a national Lutheran Faith council two years ago and the same questions were being asked then as now. Maybe we the people just don't see the need for God in our lives anymore. Maybe we're all just too busy for church. I don't know.

But one thing I do know is this: There must be a way to fill the pews again. There must be a way to bring people closer to the salvation we are all promised. That is why YOUR ideas, YOUR participation in church events and especially YOUR prayers are needed to turn the tide even if we have to do it one person at a time. Reach out to others and remember: A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

Submitted by Virgil Bennett

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg 11a-4:45p - Blood Drive	2 Office closed	3
4 10:15 Worship w/ communion	5 9-12 Office Hrs 645p - Worship Service	6 9-12 Office Hrs 6:30p - Fellowship Committee	7 9-12 Office Hrs 6p Bingo 730p Bible Briefs	8 9-12 Office Hrs 745a - Men's Bible Study 7p Prayer Mtg	9 Office closed	10 9-11am - Grounds Cleanup
11 10:15 Worship 5p - Dinner Club @ So residence	12 9-12 Office Hrs 645p - Worship Service	13 9-12 Office Hrs 7p - Worship Committee	14 9-12 Office Hrs 6p Bingo 730p Bible Briefs	15 9-12 Office Hrs 745a - Men's Bible Study 7p Prayer Mtg	16 Office closed	17 7p - Movie Night Hoodwinked
18 10:15 Worship w/ communion	19 9-12 Office Hrs 645p - Worship Service	20 9-12 Office Hrs 6:30p - Council Mtg	21 9-12 Office Hrs 6p Bingo 730p Bible Briefs	22 9-12 Office Hrs 745a Men's Bible Study 7p Prayer Mtg 7p Choir	23 Office closed	24
25 10:15 Worship	26 9-12 Office Hrs 645p - Worship Service	27 9-12 Office Hrs	28 9-12 Office Hrs 6p Bingo 730p Bible Briefs	29 9-12 Office Hrs 745a - Men's Bible Study 7p Prayer Mtg 7p Choir	30 Office closed	

### Birthdays

8 Shirley Chapman  
10 Juli Nurbhai  
11 Mark Mahler  
19 Virgil Bennett  
24 Asher Adkins  
27 Linda Roberts

### Anniversaries

9 Cliff & Pat DeSchaff  
18 Todd & Sherri Nitz  
25 John & Diane Herrman  
28 Gary & Barb Walker  
30 Wayne & Sandy Schuermann

### Shut-Ins

To keep our shut-ins safe, please call the church office for mailing addresses.

Leona Barowicz  
Andrea Barowicz  
Thomas Boozer  
Evelyn Chevrette  
Darlene Gaul  
Delores Gaul  
Dolores Kraklau  
Ray Lietz  
Harold Lick  
Ruth Retzke  
Gloria Siewert





# Mark your Calendars for these fun social events at Peace!

**Bingo**  
Every Wednesday Night from  
6-7:30pm



**Movie Night**  
Saturday September 17th at  
7pm  
**Movie: Hoodwinked**  
*(See inside for a brief description)*

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